

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an online invention disclosure comprising:

forming an invention disclosure online by entering a plurality of selected information including a first inventor identification information from a user computer;

as the plurality of selected information is entered into the user computer, storing the selected information in a central storage location; ~~[[and]]~~

prompting approval of said first inventor; and

after approval locking the disclosure to prevent further editing of the disclosure.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of generating an approval log.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the step of generating an approval log comprises ~~the step of~~ recording the date of an approval.

4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 3 further comprising associating the approval log with the disclosure.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein forming is performed by a non-inventor author.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of forming comprises identifying a second inventor; and,
further comprising the steps of notifying the second inventor; and,
prompting the second inventor to approve the invention disclosure.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 6 further comprising revising the disclosure by the second inventor to form a revised disclosure, and prompting the first inventor to approve the revised disclosure.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 6 wherein prompting the second inventor comprises providing an E-mail to the second inventor.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein prompting comprises the step of prompting the approval of an associated document.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9 wherein said associated document is selected from a group consisting of an assignment document and a power of attorney.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising allowing access to various users for obtaining the information.

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12. (Currently Amended) An invention disclosure system comprising:
a user computer;
a web server having an identification subsystem; and
a database coupled to the server;

said server providing user screens to said users so users provide disclosure information to said server, receiving disclosure information from said users, storing information in said database, prompting the user to provide a password associated with said disclosure; and allowing access to said disclosure after storing information in said database upon entering the password associated with the disclosure.

13. (Original) A system as recited in claim 12 further comprising a directory system coupled to said server whereby upon providing identification information to server said server retrieves user information from the directory system in response to the identification information.

14. (Original) A system as recited in claim 12 wherein said server creates a user log.

15. (Original) A system as recited in claim 14 wherein said server associates said approval log with said disclosure.

16. (Currently Amended) An invention disclosure system comprising:
a user computer;
a server;
a database coupled to the server;

said server providing user screens to said users to prompt said users to provide disclosure information to said server, receiving disclosure information from said users including a first inventor identification and a second inventor identification, storing information in said database, prompting the first inventor and the second inventor to provide an approval, locking the disclosure to prevent further editing after the approval by the first inventor and the second inventor.

17. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16 wherein said server generated an approval log associated with said disclosure.

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18. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17 wherein said server associates said approval log with said disclosure.

19. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16 further comprising a directory system coupled to said server whereby upon providing identification information to server, said server retrieves user information from the directory system in response to the identification information.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an online invention disclosure comprising:

forming an invention disclosure online by entering a plurality of selected information including a first inventor identification information and a second inventor identification from a user computer;

as the plurality of selected information is entered into the user computer, storing the information in a central storage location;

prompting approval of said first inventor;

notifying the second inventor; and,

prompting the second inventor to approve the disclosure; and

locking the disclosure to create a locked disclosure to prevent further editing of the disclosure when the second inventor approves the disclosure.

21. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20 further comprising the step of generating an approval log.

22. (Original) A method as recited in claim 21 wherein the step of generating an approval log comprises the step of recording the date of an approval.

23. (Original) A method as recited in claim 22 further comprising associating the approval log with the disclosure.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 6 further comprising locking the disclosure when the second user approves the disclosure.

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25. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 7 further comprising locking the disclosure when the first user approves the revised invention disclosure.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 8 wherein providing an E-mail to the second inventor comprises providing an E-mail to the second inventor having a hyperlink to the disclosure therein.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an online invention disclosure comprising:

entering a plurality of information including one or more inventor identifications from one or more inventors to form an invention disclosure from a user computer;

storing the information in a central storage location;

prompting approval of the one or more inventors;

locking the disclosure to create a locked disclosure to prevent further editing of the disclosure [[when]] after each of the one or more inventors approve the disclosure.

28. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 27 further comprising generating an approval log.

29. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 28 wherein generating an approval log comprises recording the date of an approval from each of the one or more inventors.

30. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 27 further comprising associating the approval log with the disclosure.

31. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 27 wherein prompting comprises prompting the one or more inventor comprises providing an E-mail to the one or more inventors.

32. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 31 wherein providing an E-mail to the one or more inventors comprises providing an E-mail to the one or more inventors having a hyperlink to the disclosure therein.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an online document comprising:

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forming a document online by entering a plurality of selected information including a first user identification information from a user computer;
storing the selected information in a central storage location; [[and]]
prompting approval of said first user;
generating an approval log comprising a date of approval by the first user; and
associating the approval log with the document.

34-36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 33 wherein the step of forming comprises identifying a second user; and,
further comprising the steps of notifying the second user; and,
prompting the second user to approve the document.

38. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37 further comprising revising the document by the second user to form a revised document, and prompting the first user to approve the revised document.

39. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37 wherein prompting the second user comprises providing an E-mail to the second user.

40. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37 further comprising locking the document when the second user approves the document.

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41. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 33 wherein said document is selected from a group consisting of an assignment document, an agreement and a power of attorney.
